

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 ACDA-07

TRSE-00 DHA-02 MCT-01 /083 W

-----251222Z 100581 /14

O P 251225Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1021

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 08796

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS PINT CF FR

SUBJECT: QUAI COMMENTS ON CONGO SITUATION

REF: PARIS 8526

1. THE FRENCH EMBASSY REPORTED THE SITUATION IN BRAZZA MARCH 24 AS "CALM, BUT TENSE", ACCORDING TO QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA (LA ROCHERE). THE EMBASSY SAID THE POPULATION WAS SHOCKED BY THE DEATHS OF MASSEMBA-DEBAT AND THE ARCHBISHOP AND THAT NOBODY BELIEVES THE FORMER'S ALLEGED CONFESSION OR THAT NGOUABI'S FAMILY KILLED THE LATTER. OTHER DRACONIAN SENTENCES ARE EXPECTED SOON.

2. MASSEMBA-DEBAT WAS VERY POPULAR WITH THE BAS-CONGOLAIS AND THE CARDINAL WITH ALMOST ALL ELEMENTS OF THE POPULATION, ESPECIALLY THE CATHOLIC THIRD, LA ROCHERE CONTINUED. HE SAID THAT THE BAS-CONGOLAIS QUARTERS OF BRAZZA HAVE BEEN ENCIRCLED BY THE ARMY AND THAT TRIBAL FIGHTING IN THE CAPITAL IS A SERIOUS DANGER.

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3. MAJOR SASSOU-NGUESSO, A NORTHERNER, WORRIES THE FRENCH, LA ROCHERE SAID, LESS BECAUSE OF HIS IDEOLOGICAL CONVICTIONS (WHICH ARE SIMILAR TO NGOUABI'S AND THOSE OF THE MAJORITY OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE OF E THE PCT), THAN BECAUSE OF HIS LACK OF SCRUPLES AND VIOLENT TEMPER. HE MIGHT DO ALMOST ANYTHING IN THE

FIGHT FOR LEADERSHIP WHICH IS SHAPING UP. A POSSIBLY DANGEROUS RIVAL WITHIN THE COMMITTEE, COMPOSED MAINLY OF NORTHERNERS, IS OYUMBI, DESCRIBED AS HAVING A STRONG PERSONALITY AND BEING POPULAR WITH BOTH OFFICERS AND MEN IN THE MILITARY.

4. AS FOR RELATIONS WITH FRANCE, LA ROCHERE DESCRIBED THE FAILURE OF THE CONGOLESE RADIO SINCE LAST SATURDAY TO REBROADCAST GISCARD'S LETTER OF CONDOLENCE ALONG WITH OTHERS RECEIVED AS A "BAD SIGN". MOREOVER, KIKADIDI HAS BEEN ACCUSED PUBLICLY OF BEING AN AGENT OF FRENCH INTELLIGENCE SERVICES. WHILE THE ANTI-FRENCH TENDENCY IS NOT YET DEFINITE, LA ROCHERE CONCLUDED, IT IS MORE CLEAR THAN SIX DAYS AGO.  
GAMMON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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